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**SOURCE** Tientsin Jih-pao.

MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF METAL FARM IMPLEMENTS  
DECLINE IN NORTH CHINA

Manufacture of native-style farm implements and the sale of insecticides and fertilizers have made good progress in North China, while manufacture and sale of metal farm implements in Tientsin have declined.

Only 30 all-steel plows were made this year as compared to 300 last year, and the production of sprayers by the copper and steel fabricators of the city has been discontinued since last July.

Private and public agricultural equipment companies in Tientsin are busily engaged in filling orders and transporting farm implements, fertilizers, and insecticides to rural areas to assist in spring planting.

Already, 64,000 catties of implement parts (plow colters, shears, beams, etc.), representing the January production here, have been sold. Production for March is expected to be 50 percent higher than January. Since spring of this year, 80 carloads of bamboo, rattan, and sandalwood materials have reached Tientsin from Hankow. Most of it goes into the production of baskets, brooms, handles, and other products. Since spring, the sale of sandalwood for making plow or hoe handles has reached 200,000 catties.

The rural sale of farm implements produced in Tientsin awaits adjustment of a number of problems. Many private companies have lost their confidence in the farmers' ability to purchase. They lack aggressiveness in pushing sales and in seeking new outlets for their products. Some even allow temporary shortages of capital to stifle their purchase of raw materials and their production goal. For instance, the implement industry in the city this year produced only 30 all-steel plows as compared to 300 last year. They have ceased to produce any bucket pumps this year while 125 were manufactured last year. The copper and steel fabricators in the city have a yearly capacity of 3,000 to 5,000 sprayers, but they have discontinued production since July last year.

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Under the present difficulties, it is hoped that farm implement firms will actively seek new outlets for their products, and that other customers, especially the government, will render all possible assistance to the industry.

In the field of insecticides, 30,000 cattles of arsenic have arrived from Hankow and more is expected to arrive. The sale of arsenic products this year is three or four times greater than any previous year. The sale of arsenious acid is also better than any previous year.

With regard to fertilizer, the China Native Products Corporation and co-operative stores have received over 189,000 tons of beancake and 22,000 tons of fertilizer powder for sale in the North China areas. The North China Co-operatives have also received 17,000 tons of beancake from the National Co-operatives. The retail sale of fertilizer in Tientsin alone had reached several tens of tons per day. To aid agricultural production, the Tientsin People's Bank has cut the interest rate for fertilizer loans to one percent per month for local cooperatives.

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